Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1 (Currently Amended). A controlled-release dosage form suitable for oral administration comprising a matrix formed of the following ingredients (a) and (b):

(a) gellan gum, and

(b) one or more hydrophilic polymers selected from the group consisting of guar gum, hydroxypropyl methylcellulose, carboxymethyl cellulose sodium salt and xanthan gum;

and further comprising at least one drug incorporated within said matrix[[;]].

2 (Cancelled).

3 (Currently Amended). ~~Dosage~~ The dosage form~~s~~ according to claim 1 comprising a combination of guar gum and carboxymethyl cellulose as component (b).

4 (Currently Amended). ~~Dosage~~ The dosage form~~s~~ according to claim 1 comprising ~~HPMC~~ hydroxypropyl methylcellulose as component (b).

5 (Currently Amended). The dosage form according to claim 1, wherein at least one drug is selected from the group ~~comprising~~ consisting of anti-inflammatory drugs, antiepileptics, hypnotic sedatives, antipyretic analgesics, stimulants, antillypnotics, drugs for vertigo, drugs for the central nervous system, skeletal muscle relaxants, drugs for the autonomic nervous system, autonomic ganglionic blockers,

drugs for the peripheral nervous system, opthalmic drugs, drugs for sense- organs, cardiacs, antiarrhythmics, diuretics, antihypertensives, vasoreinforcements, vasoconstrictors, vasodilators, antiarteriosclerotics, circulatory drugs, ~~respiratory stimulants,~~ antitussive expectorants, drugs for respiratory organs, peptic ulcer drugs, ~~stomachic digestants,~~ antacids, cathartics, cholagogues, digestive drugs, hormonal agents, urinary tract disinfectants, uterotonics, urogenital drugs, drugs for anus diseases, vitamins, nutritive roborants, ~~drugs for blood or body fluid,~~ drugs for hepatic diseases, antidotes, habitual intoxication drugs, antipodagrics, enzyme preparations, antidiabetics, cell activation drugs, antitumor agents, antibiotics, chemotherapeutic agents, and arthritis therapeutics.

6 (Currently Amended). The dosage form according to claim 5, wherein the drug has preferred absorption ~~at the upper parts of the gastric intestine~~ in the stomach.

7 (Currently Amended). The dosage form according to claim 6, wherein the drug is selected from the group consisting of [[:]] clarithromycin, metformin, azidotimidine, orlistat, ciprofloxacin, and levodopa.

8 (Currently Amended). The dosage form according to claim 1, wherein the dosage form further comprises ~~other~~ one or more non-active pharmaceutically acceptable additives~~, such as metal ions, colorants, taste maskers, dietary components, excipients, binding agents, coatings, preservatives and mixtures thereof~~.

9 (Cancelled).

10 (Currently Amended). The ~~oral~~ dosage form according to claim 8, ~~further processed~~ which is in the form of a tablet~~s~~, caplet~~s~~, vegecap~~s~~, ~~and~~ or capsule~~s~~.

11 (Withdrawn - Currently Amended). A method for the preparation of controlled-release dosage forms, comprising the following steps:
(a) Homogenizing the matrix components with the active drug via mechanical means, resulting in a premix[[.]]

(b) Adding to the premix a combination of water and one or more hydrophilic solvents, obtaining a pharmaceutically acceptable wet granule[[.]]

(c) Drying the wet granulate via conventional drying methods, obtaining a dried granulate[[.]]

(d) Screening the dried granulate through a sieving system to obtain a screened granulate of a size suitable for post-processing[[.]]

(e) Adding a lubricant to the screened granulate.

12 (New). The dosage form according to claim 8, wherein said additives are selected from the group consisting of metal ions, colorants, taste maskers, dietary components, excipients, binding agents, coatings, preservatives and mixtures thereof.